

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surveillance camera apparatus, comprising:
 - a camera unit for taking an image of a specific object;
 - 5 a camera retaining assembly for retaining said camera unit, said camera unit being movable with respect to said camera retaining assembly to a destined position and posture;
 - 10 a micro-computer unit for producing a position signal indicative of said destined position and posture, said micro-computer unit being operative to take two different operation states consisting of a regular state to produce a regular state signal indicative of said regular state for every first predetermined time interval, and an irregular state not to produce said position signal;
 - 15 a resetting unit for resetting said micro-computer unit to take said regular state from said irregular state;
 - 20 a camera driving unit for driving said camera unit to move with respect to said camera retaining assembly;
 - 25 a camera drive control unit for controlling said camera driving unit to have said camera driving unit drive said camera unit to move with respect to said camera retaining assembly, said camera drive control unit being operative to take two different control states consisting of a first control state under which said camera unit is driven to move to said destined position and posture represented by said position signal produced by said micro-computer unit, and a second control state under which said camera unit is driven to move into engagement with said resetting unit to have said micro-computer unit to be reset; and
 - 30 a control state setting unit for setting said camera drive control unit to take said first control state when receiving said regular state signal from said micro-computer unit within a second predetermined time interval longer than said first predetermined interval, while setting said camera drive control unit to take said second control state when not receiving said regular state signal from said micro-computer unit within said second predetermined time interval.
2. A surveillance camera apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said camera unit has a surveillance area where said camera unit is driven by said camera driving unit to move with respect to said camera retaining assembly to taking an image of said specific object, and a non-surveillance area where said camera unit is driven by said camera driving unit to move with respect to said camera retaining assembly into engagement with said resetting unit in the outside of said surveillance area.

3. A surveillance camera apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said control state setting unit includes:

5 signal receiving means for receiving said regular state signal produced by said micro-computer unit;

interval measuring means for measuring a lap time interval starting from the time when said regular state signal is received by said signal receiving means; and

10 time interval comparing means for comparing said lap time interval and said second predetermined time interval, and deciding whether or not said lap time interval exceeds said second predetermined time interval based on said compared lap time interval and second predetermined time interval.

4. A surveillance camera apparatus as set forth in claim 1, which further comprises:

15 an operation state setting unit for selectively setting said micro-computer unit to take said regular and irregular states.

5. A surveillance camera apparatus as set forth in claim 1, which further comprises:

20 an operation state setting unit for repeatedly setting said micro-computer unit to take said regular and irregular states in predetermined time interval having two different time intervals consisting of a first time interval in which said micro-computer unit is set to take said regular mode, and a second time interval in which said micro-computer unit is set to take said irregular mode.

25 6. A surveillance camera apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said camera retaining assembly includes a camera shaft having a camera revolution axis thereof, and a holder member for revolvably supporting said camera shaft; and

30 said camera shaft is driven in unison with said camera by said camera driving unit to revolve around said camera revolution axis with respect to said camera retaining assembly.

35 7. A surveillance camera apparatus as set forth in claim 6, in which said camera retaining assembly includes a holder shaft securely mounted on said holder member and having a holder revolution axis thereof, and which further comprises:

a stationary member;

a holder driving unit for driving said holder member of said camera retaining

assembly to revolve around said holder revolution axis with respect to said stationary member; and

5 a holder drive control unit for controlling said holder driving unit to have said holder driving unit drive said holder member to revolve around said holder revolution axis with respect to said stationary member to said destined position and posture represented by said position signal produced by said micro-computer unit;

8. A surveillance camera apparatus, comprising:

a stationary member;

10 a camera unit for taking an image of a specific object;

a camera retaining assembly for retaining said camera unit, said camera retaining assembly including a camera shaft having a camera revolution axis thereof, a holder member for revolvably supporting said camera shaft to revolve around said camera revolution axis with respect to said holder member, and a holder shaft having 15 a holder revolution axis thereof, said holder shaft securely mounted on said holder member and being supported by said stationary member to revolve around said holder revolution axis with respect to said stationary member, and said camera unit being revolvable with respect to said stationary member and said holder member to a destined position and posture;

20 a micro-computer unit for producing a position signal indicative of said destined position and posture, said micro-computer unit being operative to take two different operation states consisting of a regular state to produce a regular state signal indicative of said regular state for every first predetermined time interval, and an irregular state not to produce said position signal;

25 a resetting unit for resetting said micro-computer unit to take said regular state from said irregular state;

a camera driving unit for driving said camera unit to revolve around said camera revolution axis with respect to said holder member;

30 a holder driving unit for driving said holder member of said camera retaining assembly to revolve around said holder revolution axis with respect to said stationary member;

a camera drive control unit for controlling said camera driving unit to have said camera driving unit drive said camera unit to revolve around said camera revolution axis with respect to said holder member;

35 a holder drive control unit for controlling said holder driving unit to have said holder driving unit drive said holder member to revolve around said holder revolution axis with respect to said stationary member, said camera drive control unit

and said holder drive control unit being respectively operative to take two different control states consisting of a first control state under which said camera unit is driven to move to said position and posture represented by said position signal produced by said micro-computer unit, and a second control state under which said camera unit is 5 driven to move into engagement with said resetting unit to have said micro-computer unit to be reset; and

10 a control state setting unit for setting each of said camera drive control unit and holder drive control unit to take said first control state when receiving said regular state signal from said micro-computer unit within a second predetermined time longer than said first predetermined interval, while setting each of said camera drive control unit and holder drive control unit to take said second control state when not receiving said regular state signal from said micro-computer unit within said second predetermined time.